(d) The National Airports Authority have plans to upgrade following airports in the State of Assam:—

1. Guwahati :- Expand and modify the existing terminal building. The work is likely to commence during the current financial year.

2. Dibrugarh & Lilabari:- Night landing facilities are being provided. The work is in progress and is expcted to be completed by the end of 1993.

3. Silchar :- The work relating to expansion and modification of the existing terminal building is expected to be awarded in the current financial year, and completed by January, 1995.

Development of Adventure Tourism in North East States

4138. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the North East States have tremendous potential for tourist development specially 'Adventure Tourism'; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to encourage it in that region?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: (a) and (b) The Government of India, on its own, does not identify regions or spots for development of adventure tourism. However, it assists the State Governments/Union Territories for creation of infrastructural facilities on the specific proposals received from them, on the basis of their merits, inter-se-priorities and availability of funds.

Development of Tourism in Assam

4139. SHRI BHADRESHWAR BURAGOHAIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what are the infrastructural facilities besides hotel and motel facilities contemplated by the Central Government for development of Tourism in Assam;

(b) what is the amount of money earmarked during 1992-93 for development of tourism in Assam; and

(c) whether the State Government is utilising the money in those projects?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Development of Tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State/Union Territory Governments. However, the Department of Tourism extends financial assistance on the basis of specific proposals received from the States, their merit, availability of funds and inter-se priorities. Based on the discussions with the State Government 6 projects with an estimated cost of Rs. 125.00 lakhs has been listed for financial assistance during 1992-93.

(c) Central Government assistance is released in instalments and all instalments except the first are released only on receipt of utilisation certificates from the State Government.

Shortage of pilots in Indian Airlines

4140. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any shortage of trainee pilots in Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, whether there is any valid panel for the recruitment of trainee pilots in Indian Airlines;

(c) if so, upto what period the penal is valid;

(d) the number of candidates taken from the said panel *vis-a-vis* Gen/SC/ST;

(e) whether the Indian Airlines will absorb the rest of the candidates from the said panel;

(f) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines has invited fresh applications for trainee pilots through employment notification;

(g) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(h) what will be the position of the existing panel in that case?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) A panel of 13 candidates (including 3 SC and 1 ST candidates) valid upto 10-11-1992 is available. The panel has not been operated so far.

(e) to (h) Fresh applications have been invited because Indian Airlines would later on require more pilots than those included in the existing panel. The existing panel will be exhausted before a new one is operated.

Entry of International Airlines in India

4141. SHRI RANJAN PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION & TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of International Airlines are to enter the Indian skies; and

(b) if so, what will be its effect on Air India's prospects?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The Government of USA has designated two more carriers, namely United Airlines and American Airlines for operation to India. These carriers will certainly increase the competition for Air India, which is examining the feasibility of operating to new points in the USA to meet the challenge.

Working of Security Department of I. A.

4142. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION & TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Security Department of Indian Airlines is functioning under their Administration;

(b) if so, the reasons for putting such sophisticated Security Department under their administration;

(c) whether there is any Director of Security and if so, the reasons for the Security Department not working under his guidance;

(d) what is the tenure of the Director of Vigilance in the Indian Airlines; and

(e) whether the administration has extended his tenure; if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): a) to (c) The Security Department of Indian Airlines functions under the Director of Security who is reporting directly to the Chairman and Managing Director.

(d) and (e) The five year tenure of the present incumbent which was upto 12-7-92, has been extended till his successor joins.